

The Relay 31

The Bible Society of Liberia (BSL) is one of our main partners on the ground in Liberia. They are one of the many Bible societies around the world that make up the United Bible Societies. They focus on reaching the people of Liberia with the word of God in a variety of ways.

The personnel at BSL coordinate the translation projects. They manage all the language team personnel, the finances for the projects, the equipment, and the training. They oversee the printing and distribution of all written and recorded Bible materials. Following is an overview of the various other ministries BSL is conducting to share the Good News around Liberia.

BSL Radio Broadcast -- The radio programming was created to increase awareness of BSL's vision, mission, programs, and activities. It is a one-hour Bible-based program aired every Wednesday. Various topics are covered, biblically sound preachers and teachers are featured, and listeners can call in with their questions. Every broadcast can be accessed and shared. The program has created awareness of the Bible Society, their bookstore, and other programs offered by BSL. Bible sales have increased. The program is being shared on social media.

Rural Pastoral Training – Most Liberian untrained pastors reside in rural areas. They lack training because they cannot afford to underwrite the cost of attending a seminary or Bible institution. This training



program focuses on areas of church administration, discipleship, evangelism, Biblical interpretation and preaching, marriage and family life, and unity in the body of Christ. So far training has taken place in four counties, in more than twenty churches, and equipped over 1000 ministers of the Gospel. Each pastor receives a copy of the Bible at the end of training. The training serves to give these faithful servants tools by which they can preach the word accurately and better minister to the people in their communities.



Trauma Healing Program — Many Liberians have experienced trauma whether from the prolonged civil crisis or other domestic and economic crises which are faced on a daily basis. BSL uses a Bible-based program to help educate people about the nature of trauma. The lessons focus on knowing God amid struggle, God's love, forgiveness, and hope. Participants are encouraged to surrender their lives to Jesus if they haven't already.

This program is seeing results as people's lives have been rejuvenated. Hope is restored. While mostly woman have been in attendance, some men have also attended to help heal their hidden wounds. One woman traumatized by the disability of her daughter received a wheelchair from BSL in cooperation with a local hospital.



Youth Program — Like elsewhere, Liberia is not immune to the struggles young people face. Drugs and crime, homelessness, and poverty are taking their toll. It is estimated that Liberia has over 250,000 at-risk youths. Seeing this need, BSL has designed a special youth program aimed first at showing them that only Jesus can completely change lives and destructive habits. Lessons also focus on substance abuse, its dangers, and prevention. BSL partners with various Christian rehab centers, directing some participants to a center and providing provisions and programs at the centers.

Over 5000 youth have been reached with the message of Jesus Christ and saying no to drugs. The programs have been conducted at public and private high schools, communities, prison compounds, and churches. Out of this are seen new converts and those rededicating their lives again to Jesus without hesitation. Schools are encouraged to establish discipleship programs to nurture spiritual growth in these young people.

Sunday School Teacher training – This is the newest of the BSL programs. BSL recognizes the importance of children's ministry in the church and the need for trained teachers. Educational psychology, classroom management, and teaching methods are taught in a participatory manner. Teaching materials and other Sunday School materials are given to the participants. Over 20 members of God's Divine Favor Church showed up to be trained at the first workshop. Pray for more churches to recognize the need to train the children in their faith.

People with Visual Disability outreach – BSL has designed a special ministry for visually impaired

people. Partnering with Samaritan's Purse, BSL provided a complete set, all 66 books, of the Braille Bible to the School for the Blind located in Mango Town. They also distributed an audio New Testament Proclaimer. The students were very excited. Now they can read the Bible, conduct their devotions, and grow spiritually. During the presentation, students were selected randomly to read from their favorite books. They did not disappoint. They read with clarity and distinction. If you want to hear for yourself go to

https://www.facebook.com/biblesocietylib and witness some students reading.



Thank you for joining me and BSL in their mission to witness Christ to everyone,

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for solar equipment repairs. A bad inverter recently ruined a new battery.
- Praise for the May checking sessions. I travel May 4-28.
- Pray for the Maan and Dan teams striving to complete their Bibles.
- Pray for continued healing for Charles and good health for all the translators.
- Pray for a peaceful election year in Liberia.

CONTACT

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